



In-person book discussion program led by Jeanne Houston
Saturday, May 12 at 2:30 p.m.

During April and early May of 2012, the Riverside Public Library will engage the community in reading and discussing the novel "Farewell to Manzanar" by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston as part of Cal Humanities' California Reads project subtitled Searching for Democracy. A Cal Humanities grant has provided 300 copies of the book for loan to the community. Copies are available for checkout at all Riverside Public Library locations.

A touching, funny, and tragic memoir of the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, "Farewell to Manzanar" reminds us of a shameful chapter in the history of our state and our country. The book is a riveting first person telling of a cataclysmic time for Japanese Americans, who were imprisoned in their own land while being urged to send their sons to fight overseas. It honors the great dignity and tremendous resourcefulness of a people forced to live under the most oppressive of circumstances. The story is a poignant reminder that in moments of national crisis our civil rights can be at most risk. "Farewell to Manzanar" is a brisk read that lends itself well to lively discussions to examine the meaning of American democracy.

Riverside Public Library's project will culminate with an in-person book discussion program led by Jeanne Houston on Saturday May 12th at 2:30 pm. The program is free and will be presented in the Auditorium at the Downtown Library at 3581 Mission Inn Avenue. No tickets or reservations are necessary.

**"Told without
 bitterness, her
 story reflects the
 triumph of the
 human spirit
 during an extra-
 ordinary episode in
 American history."**

- Library Journal

Guard tower remains at the
 Manzanar National Historic Site.



About the Authors

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston was born in Inglewood, California. Best known for "*Farewell to Manzanar*," her description of her own family's experiences, her work explores the ethnic diversity of the United States. Co-written with her now-deceased husband, Jim, a legendary California writer in his own right, Jeanne's memoir is a powerful, unforgettable account.

